

Be Strong in The Lord

*PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD
PART 5*



The Shield of Faith

OUR DAILY BREAD

Junior Edition

1-27-08



SOMETHING YOU MUST KNOW:

God is perfect. He is Holy. We are all sinners. *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

(Romans 3:23a KJB)

None of us could ever make ourselves perfect or holy to be accepted by God. But God loves us all so much, that He gave His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to go to the cross and pay the penalty for our sins IN FULL, ONCE and FOR ALL. Jesus died and rose again. Because of the Lord Jesus Christ, God can now make us holy and acceptable to Himself. *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.* (1 Peter 3:18 KJB)

Jesus Christ is our ONLY WAY to God and heaven.

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

(John 14:6 KJB)

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. (Acts 16:31 KJB)

Without Jesus Christ, you can NEVER be accepted by God or go to heaven. When you believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior, God makes you His child. When you leave this world, you will spend all of eternity with Him! *But as many as received him to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.* (John 1:12 KJB) While you are still here on earth, learn His beautiful Word. Believe it and obey it, so you can enjoy all God has done for you.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.

(Colossians 3:16a KJB)

Today we will continue to learn about the SHIELD OF FAITH that God has given to all His children to PROTECT our THINKING. The shield of faith helps us to RESIST all temptations as well as believe & obey God. When we believe & obey God we won't be afraid when troubles come because we know that GOD IS ALWAYS THERE TO HELP US! We can be strong & make good decisions in our life by following God's directions. And by making good godly decisions, not only are our minds & emotions protected, but our bodies are also protected! Last week we learned that SHIELDS are used for protection. And we learned that the shield that God gives all His children is a SHIELD of FAITH!

"Above all, taking the shield of faith, where-
with ye shall be able to quench all the fiery
darts of the wicked." Ephesians 6:16 KJB

This week we will learn what FAITH is & how we can have it! To begin our lesson, imagine for a moment that you are being hunted down by a powerful king. He wants to kill you; but he cannot find you. You are living out in a tiny town with a friend. Then one of the king's soldiers discovers where you are. He tells the king all about it. One morning, your friend goes outside only to find out that the city is completely surrounded by hundreds & hundreds of the king's soldiers just waiting to capture you for the king! So your friend runs frantically into the house to tell you what has happened. He is

SCARED TO DEATH!
You are both surrounded! How can
just the 2 of you protect yourselves



from so many soldiers! Even if you called every person who lived in the tiny town, you would STILL be OUTNUMBERED! Would YOU be afraid too?

What would you tell your friend?

Well, a long time ago this very thing happened to a man named Elisha & his servant. Elisha was a man of God. He believed in the Lord & he knew that the Lord DOES every single thing He says He will do! Elisha was a prophet. The Lord would tell Elisha many things that Elisha could NEVER have known unless God told him! Remember! God knows EVERYTHING! God told Elisha all the plans of a certain king. This certain king was Israel's ENEMY! This king wanted to destroy Israel. But every time, this king made plans to attack Israel, God would tell Elisha exactly what the enemy king's plans were. Then Elisha would warn the king of Israel to STAY AWAY from the places where the enemy king was planning to attack! This enemy king wondered HOW Israel knew to stay away from his attack! He thought there was a SPY in his army!



He was very angry! Then, this king found out that the prophet Elisha was the one who warned Israel's king before every attack! He also found out where Elisha was staying. Elisha was all alone with his servant in a tiny town called Dothan. So the king sent out hundreds of his horsemen soldiers & chariots to surround the city to capture Elisha. Here is what happened when Elisha's

servant went out to the well to get water in the morning.

2Kings 6:15 KJB



“And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And the servant said unto him, alas, my master!



How shall we do?”

Oh my! The servant was PETRIFIED! But let’s see what Elisah, **THE MAN OF GOD**, said to his servant!

“And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.”

2Kings 6:16 KJB

Elisah was NOT afraid at all! Was Elisha CRAZY? The servant knew that he & Elisha were all alone there! He certainly did NOT see anyone coming to help them! What in the world was Elisha talking about? What did he mean that there were more with them than all those soldiers surrounding them? Why wasn’t Elisha just as FRIGHTENED as his servant? Well, the very next thing that Elisha did tells us WHY Elisha was NOT afraid even though he too could SEE all the hundreds of horsemen & chariots that surrounded the city!

2Kings 6:17 KJB “And Elisha prayed...”

In this time of trouble, Elisha asked God to do something special! What would YOU have asked God to do at that time? Part of what Elisha asked God for at this time will not only SURPRISE you; it will also tell us WHY Elisha was NOT AFRAID! Here is part of

what Elisha prayed for:



“And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his (the servant’s) eyes, that he may see...”

Wait a minute! Weren’t the servant’s eyes **ALREADY OPENED**? Wasn’t he the first one to see the enemy surround them? Sure his eyes were opened! Yes he certainly **DID** see all those soldiers. And **THAT** is why he was so afraid! So what did Elisha want him to see? Well, Elisha **KNEW** something that the servant **DID NOT KNOW** - something about God’s promises that his servant did **NOT KNOW**! Elisha knew about & **BELIEVED** something that could **NOT** normally be seen with our human eyes! What Elisha **KNEW & BELIEVED** about God caused him to have **COURAGE** instead of **FEAR** in this seemingly **HOPELESS** situation! Elisha had **FAITH** in what He **KNEW** God had said. Elisha’s faith in the Lord’s promises **SHIELDED HIM -PROTECTED HIM** from falling to pieces & being afraid in this scary situation! Have you ever been afraid? Being afraid is a **TERRIBLE FEELING**! Elisha’s **FAITH** in the Lord’s promises & power protected him from being afraid! And Elisha did **NOT** want his servant to be afraid!

So what was it that Elisha **KNEW & BELIEVED** to be true even though he too could **NOT** see it with his human eyes? What was it that Elisha wanted his servant to actually be able to **SEE** that normally **CANNOT** be seen with our human eyes so

that he would no longer be afraid?

Let's read to find out:

"...And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man (the servant) ; and he saw: and behold, the mountain *was* full of

horses and chariots of fire
round about Elisha."

2Kings 6:17 KJB



Imagine! The Lord allowed that young servant to see something that is normally INVISIBLE to our human eyes! The Lord allowed that young servant to see the HUNDREDS & HUNDREDS of horses & chariots of the LORD'S ARMIES which the Lord had sent to protect Elisha & his servant! Yes!!! It is TRUE! God has ARMIES of heavenly beings whom He commands to protect His people! They are REAL; but we cannot see them with our human eyes! Yet even though we can't see them, they are STILL REAL! And ELISHA KNEW & BELIEVED what He God said about His army because Elisha KNEW that God is REAL! And for this certain time in answer to Elisha's prayer for his servant, God allowed the servant to SEE God's HEAVENLY INVISIBLE ARMY surrounding Elisha to PROTECT him from the enemy army! And so NOW that he had SEEN this with his very own eyes, that servant did NOT have to be afraid anymore!

As for Elisha, the man of God, he did NOT have to SEE God's armies with his eyes because

Elisha BELIEVED what he had ALREADY LEARNED about the armies that God sends out to PROTECT His people in certain situations! Many times in the OLD TESTAMENT, God tells about His INVISIBLE ARMIES! And Elisha was a man of God who knew about God & BELIEVED what GOD said in His Word about it! Elisha LEARNED & BELIEVED that what God says is REAL is REAL!

That is called FAITH! Faith is believing that what God says is REAL is REAL even when we can't SEE it! Faith is BELIEVING & OBEYING GOD no matter WHAT because we KNOW that God is REAL & what God says is so, is so! Faith is BELIEVING & OBEYING GOD no matter WHAT because we KNOW that what God SAYS He will do, He will do! And WHERE can we find out what God says?

In our

KING JAMES BIBLE OF 1611

God is ALL KNOWING, ALL POWERFUL! He is the BOSS of the universe!



Everything God wants us to know about Him, about life, about heaven & earth, about eternity, EVERYTHING God wants us to know is written for us there to READ in our King James Bible! Faith is BELIEVING what God says & then DOING what He says NO MATTER WHAT things may LOOK like to our human eyes! We BELIEVE & OBEY God because we KNOW that God is REAL & tells us ONLY WHAT IS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT & TRUE!

What He says, He DOES! We can COUNT ON HIM ALWAYS! BELIEVING GOD - that's FAITH - will PROTECT US! It will be our SHIELD to PROTECT OUR THINKING & help us DO what GOD SAYS is RIGHT to do - no matter what we may FEEL at the moment & no matter what OTHERS may try to tell us & no matter what things may LOOK LIKE at the moment! See 2Corinthians 5:7KJB

Both Elisha & his servant were in the SAME scary situation! But look at how Elisha's FAITH in the Lord PROTECTED him from fear! Elisha was not afraid because He kept his mind on the Lord & His promises instead of on the enemy surrounding him. That is FAITH! He KNEW the Lord had a purpose & a plan for allowing the enemy to surround him. And Elisha knew that God had everything under control even IF the Lord would have allowed him to be captured! But as it turns out, that was NOT God's plan for Elisha at this time God protected Elisha from being captured! See Psalm 34:19KJB.

Do YOU want a strong SHIELD OF FAITH to protect your mind & emotions so you can be strong & do the right things no matter what?

Read the following scriptures to find out about faith:



Romans 10:17 Romans 4:20-21 Luke 7:7-9
Ephesians 1:13 Galatians 2:20 Hebrews 11:1-3
Isaiah 26:3-4 Isaiah 31:1 1John 5:14-15
Psalm 118:59

Believing God will make you STRONG!

NOT BELIEVING GOD WILL MAKE YOU WEAK!

Isaiah 7:9b says: "...If ye will not believe, surely ye shall not be established."

So lift your shield of faith! Always BELIEVE God!

GRACE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Pastor John A. Ricci

Sunday Morning Service

10:00 A.M.

Sunday Transportation Service ~ Call 24 hours Prior

Weekly Services

Wednesday & Friday Evenings, 7:30 P.M.

Prayer Meeting

Wednesday & Friday Evenings, 7:00-7:20 P.M.

Communion Service

First Sunday of Every Month

Children's Prep School (Ages 5-14) & Mother's Room

Available for Every Service

Email

info@gracecfellowship.org

Directions

From I-95

- RI Exit #22; *Left* at split to **Rt. 6 W.**
- Take Killingly St (Rt. 128) Exit; *Right* off Exit.
- Take Killingly to end; *Right* on Manton Ave; cross bridge.
- Turn *Left* at light (CVS on corner), and then bear *Left* at the split. You are now on Woonasquatucket Ave.
- Go about 1 mi.
- **G.C.F.** is on the *Left*.

From Rt. 146

- Mineral Spring Ave Exit in Providence.
- From **146 N** turn *Left* off Exit; from **146 S** turn *Right*.
- Take Mineral Spring to end and stay *Left* around the rotary (pass North Providence Town Hall).
- Take next *Right* onto Woonasquatucket Ave.
- Go about 1½ mi.
- **G.C.F.** is on the *Right*.



Grace Christian Fellowship

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